

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. The Objections To The Claims Should Be Withdrawn

Claim 10 stands objected to because it appears the Examiner desires the Applicants to limit the claims to the exact structure in the drawings, i.e. to include the recitation of "a liquid crystal display." *8/10/05 Office Action*, p. 2. Applicants respectfully submit claim 10, as written, does not contain any informalities. Claim 10 recites a method executed by a display device which includes, in order, a back light, a first circular polarizer, a mirror and a second circular polarizer. Thus, the display device is sufficiently defined in claim 10. It is noted that claim 11 which depends from claim 10 includes a liquid crystal display in the display device. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 10 should remain as written.

Claims 21 and 26 stand objected to because of the use of the terms "external surface." *8/10/05 Office Action*, p. 2. Applicants respectfully submit that in both claims 21 and 26, the term "external surface" refers to an external surface of the display device. For example, as recited in claim 21 the back light "transmit[s] light from within the device toward on external surface thereof." Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly

understand what constitutes an "external surface" of a display device. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objections to claims 21 and 26 be withdrawn.

III. The Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-20 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,462,805 to Wu et al. ("Wu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,853,421 to Sakamoto et al. ("Sakamoto") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,891,584 to Kashima ("Kashima"). 8/10/05 Office Action, p. 3.

Wu describes a transflective LCD 300 which includes a circular polarizer 330-A positioned on an outer surface of a front substrate 310-A. A transflective mirror 340 is positioned beneath the front substrate 310-A and on an outer surface of a rear substrate 310-B. Another circular polarizer 330-B is positioned beneath the transflective mirror 340 and above a light source 350. *Wu*, col. 7, ll. 13-54.

Sakamoto describes a transflective type LCD which consists of a lower polarizing plate 19a in combination with a lower phase difference plate 20a, and an upper polarizing plate 19b in combination with an upper polarizing plate 20b. The lower polarizing plate is "arranged in a crossed Nicols manner, that is, as turned by 90 degree with respect to the upper side polarizing plate." *Sakamoto*, col. 9, ll. 31-34.

Kashima describes a liquid crystal device consisting of a single circular polarization layer

made of a linear polarization layer in combination with a $\lambda/4$ phase-shifting layer. *Kashima*, col. 32, ll. 17-19.

The Examiner has correctly recognized that Wu does not disclose or suggest "a first circular X-polarizer" and "a second circular X-polarizer", but states that Sakamoto discloses these elements and that *Kashima* provides the motivation to combine the teachings of Wu and Sakamoto.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sakamoto fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu, and does not disclose or suggest "*a first circular X-polarizer*" and "*a second circular X-polarizer*" as recited in claim 1. The Examiner states that Sakamoto discloses that the lower polarizing plate 19a in combination with the lower phase difference plate 20a function as a first circular X-polarizer, and the upper polarizing plate 19b in combination with the upper phase difference plate 20b function as a second circular X-polarizer. As clearly shown in Fig. 3 of Sakamoto, the lower polarizing plate 19a and the upper polarizing plate 20a are oriented perpendicularly with respect to one another. In fact, Sakamoto states that the "lower side polarizing plate 19a is arranged in a crossed Nicols manner, that is, as turned by 90 degree with respect to the upper side polarizing plate 19b." *Sakamoto*, col. 9, ll. 31-34. Two plates that are oriented 90 degrees differently cannot both be X-polarizers. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Sakamoto does not disclose or suggest "*a first circular X-polarizer*" and "*a second circular X-polarizer*," as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kashima also fails to disclose or suggest "*a first circular X-polarizer*" and "*a second circular X-polarizer*" as recited in claim 1. The Examiner states that Kashima provides motivation to combine Wu and Sakamoto because it discloses that linear polarization layer in combination with a $\lambda/4$ phase-shifting layer would result in a improvement in the efficiency of light utilization. 8/10/05 *Office Action*, p. 4. That is, it appears that the Examiner is citing Kashima solely for the proposition that a circular polarizer utilizes light efficiently. As described above, Kashima discloses a liquid crystal device consisting of only a single circular polarization layer made of a linear polarization layer in combination with a $\lambda/4$ phase-shifting layer. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kashima does not disclose or suggest "*a first circular X-polarizer*" and "*a second circular X-polarizer*" as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that neither Wu nor Sakamoto not Kashima, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests "*a first circular X-polarizer*" and "*a second circular X-polarizer*" as recited in claim 1. Because claims 3-9 depend from, and, therefore include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 10 recites limitations substantially similar to those of claim 1, including "*a first circular X-polarizer*" and "*a second circular X-polarizer*." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claims 11, 13-19 depend from, and, therefore include all of the limitations of claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above

with reference to claim 10.

Claim 20 recites limitations substantially similar to those of claim 1, including “*an internal circular X-polarizer*” and “*an external circular X-polarizer.*” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

Claim 26 recites limitations substantially similar to those of claim 1, including “a first circular X-polarizer” and “a second circular X-polarizer.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

Claims 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu in view of Sakamoto in view of Kashima in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,853,421 to Minakuchi. (“Minakuchi”). 8/10/05 *Office Action*, p. 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that Minakuchi does not cure the above-described deficiencies of Wu, Sakamoto and Kashima. Thus, because claim 2 depends from, and, therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claim 12 depends from, and, therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the reasons stated above with reference to claim 10.

Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu in view of Sakamoto in view of Kashima in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,642,977 to Kotchick et al. ("Kotchick"). 8/10/05 *Office Action*, p. 7.

Claim 21 recites limitations substantially similar to claim 1, including "*a first circular X-polarizer*" and "*a second circular X-polarizer*." Applicants respectfully submit that Kotchick does not cure the above described deficiencies of Wu, Sakamoto and Kashima. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that neither Wu nor Sakamoto nor Kashima nor Kotchick, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests "*a first circular X-polarizer*, and "*a second circular X-polarizer*," as recited in claim 21.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is allowable. Because claims 22 and 23 depend from, and, therefore include all of the limitations of claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu in view of Sakamoto in view of Kashima in view of Kotchick in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,548,108 to Moldskred et al. ("Moldskred"). 8/10/05 *Office Action*, p. 7.

Applicants respectfully submit that Moldskred does not cure the above-mentioned deficiencies of Wu, Sakamoto, Kashima and Kotchick. Thus, because claims 24-25 depend from, and, therefore include all of the limitations of claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that

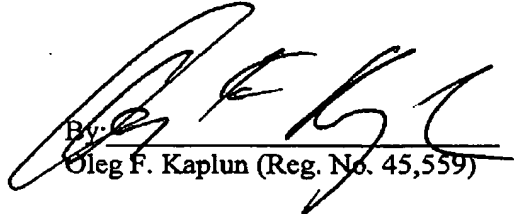
these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above with reference to claim 21.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the now pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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